

A STILES HALL SUMMER PROJECT

June 10, 1964

The Stiles Hall Summer Project in the Richland Housing Development near Yuba City is planned to be a group teaching experience for twenty Cal students and five master teachers between July 1 and August 15 of this year. We need two more experienced teachers. These volunteers will operate a summer school for the children of agricultural workers between the ages of 5 and 14 during a regularly scheduled morning session. This program will provide an opportunity for a learning experience as well as recreation for these children. If not in school the children would possibly be left at home, perhaps in a neighbor's care, if both parents had to work, or transported to the fields where they would wait until their parents were through with their work. The three hour school session each day will concentrate on teaching reading, arithmetic and language.

In addition, the volunteers anticipate planning and implementing with community representatives a structured library, recreational and instructional swimming program each afternoon for the same group. Included in the recreational activities will be dramatics, creative writing, arts and crafts and field trips. There is a possibility of assisting with a day care program if such a program is initiated by the community. The Cal student volunteers will also work in other areas of responsibility including supervision of morning games, aiding with record keeping and report writing, a Friday night program for the whole family as well as special projects jointly developed with the staff, tenants and community.

The Council of the existing Richland Tenants' Association has indicated interest and support. Talks with various residents of the area have revealed interest for possible adult classes in English, typing and consumer problems. Learning new skills might open possibilities for the adults to find employment in addition to farm work. The volunteers hope to assist any adults who might be interested in such areas as English, typing or sewing.

Basic in the philosophic rationale of dignity for all men is the customary Stiles Hall concern for close articulation with the community. A spokesman for the University YMCA recently noted that the aim of the group is to "leave the right sort of tracks which may be followed and continued in the community". The aim to enrich a community appears to stand closer to realization as the community and Stiles Hall continue to develop the summer project. Those responsible for planning and carrying out this program do not envisage the need for extensive funds. However, some groups and individuals have indicated interest in helping to provide materials and defraying various unavoidable expenses. Contributions made to the Stiles Hall summer project are tax deductible, are much appreciated and will be promptly acknowledged.

235-6347
6 fm.

Mary Kate Gill
Yuba City Project Volunteer

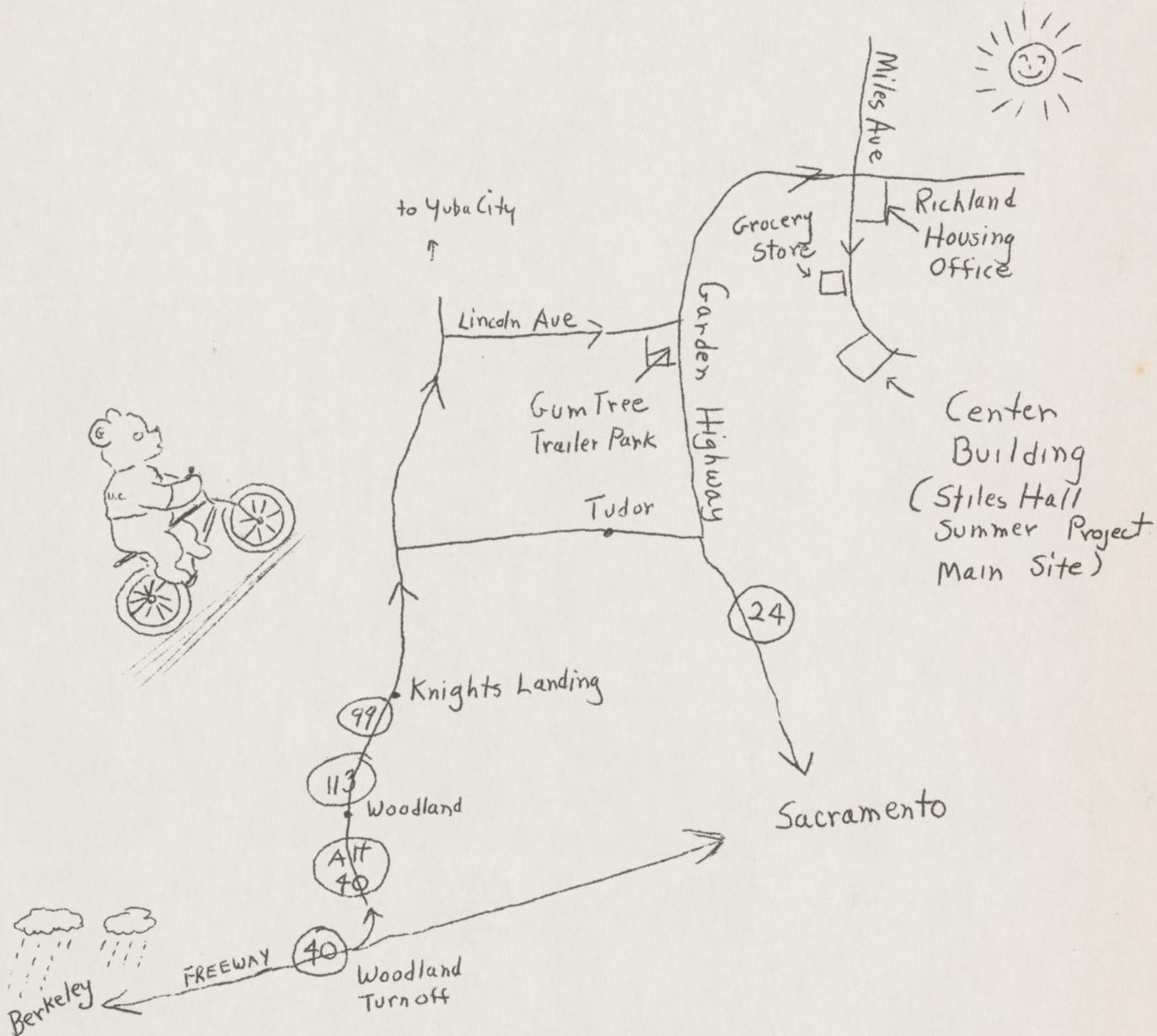
Ken Thollaug
Director

Summer address:
Stiles Hall Summer Project
c/o Housing Authority of the County of Sutter
P.O. Box 631
Yuba City, California

Berkeley address:
Stiles Hall
2400 Bancroft Way
Berkeley 4, California

P.O. Box 813
Sonora, Calif

HALL SUMMER STILES PROJECT



Berkeley to Summer Project $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours
Sacramento to Summer Project 1 hour

THE CALIFORNIA SUMMER PROJECT

This summer 30 students will be going to Tulare County to extend their program of community development among farm workers. In three towns -- Woodlake, Farmersville, and Ivanhoe -- neighborhood centers will be started, similar to the Freedom Houses started in the ghettos of Oakland and San Francisco; around these, farm workers will be organized at the grass roots level.

The farm worker has been intimidated for decades. Previous attempts at unionization and subsequent strikes have resulted in beatings and blacklisting. And in the sad aftermath the farm worker has been made afraid to press for his rights, and to counter the indignities perpetuated not only by corporation farmers, but by governmental agencies as well.

The plight of the farm worker has changed little since the Depression. His family is forced to subsist on an average of \$1200 a year. He does not have the right to collective bargaining; does not enjoy equal protection under the minimum wage law; and is not covered by unemployment insurance. Due to official indifference, health, sanitation and child-labor laws remain unenforced: 500 children have been permanently maimed in farm accidents in California in the last two years.

The improvement of living and working conditions of farm workers has been stifled so far by the importation of braceros. Furthermore, the farm worker himself is too politically isolated, disunified, and frightened to change his lot. Farm workers must gain political awareness and it is through community centers that they can learn about their rights as citizens and workers.

The community centers of the Summer Project will serve as springboards for the following (as well as other) programs which are prerequisite for grass roots organization in this area:

- 1) the establishment of self-help child care
- 2) informal classes in political and cultural education and tutoring to improve literacy levels
- 3) voter registration
- 4) block work - neighborhood organization
- 5) giving information regarding the use of County Welfare and Hospital facilities.

Moreover, the Summer Project will attempt to bridge the gap between farm workers and the community at large. As soon as the dismal "shoe-string communities" are developed politically, unionization will be possible.

But all of these things cost money, lots of it. Because of this, the Summer Project will be successful in direct proportion to how well financed it is. The students going to Tulare County will pay for some of the expences of the Project as well as support themselves by farm work. But student resources are not nearly enough. Unfortunately, efforts at raising funds have failed so far. We are turning to liberal-minded people in this community for help. Any donation to the California Summer Project will be extremely helpful. The Project's treasury now has about \$30, and we are getting desperate. We need some sort of cash reserve right now for emergencies - in case, for example, we can't get jobs in a period of no work.

Contributions of \$5 or \$10 or more (or anything!) will be greatly appreciated. The success of this project depends largely on YOU.

All contributions should be sent to:

TANYA POZZI, 2626 COLLEGE AVE, BERKELEY

I would like to help the California Summer Project

with \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

please enclose this with your contribution